

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

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SHALL THE CITY ISSUE BONDS?

Mayor Lane's forthcoming message definitely proposing a bond issue for the city will bring Honolulu's financial problems squarely before the people.

In planning to discuss these problems and to explain the bond issue scheme at a series of public meetings and before many gatherings of businessmen, the mayor and Supervisor Shingle—for Mr. Shingle has been early in recognizing that some decisive stroke must be made—are taking a course that will generally commend itself.

They have no idea of springing a scheme for a half million or so of bonds upon the people without any explanation of the reasons. They know that in the present temper of the electorate such a move would mean defeat—and political disaster. Unquestionably the taxpayers right now are in no very pleasant frame of mind over the developments of the past three months. So far as money for permanent improvements is concerned, the city is virtually "broke." It struggled into 1916 with a heavy deficit or overdraft from 1915. For the financial tangle in which the city officials find themselves, the taxpayers are bound to blame somebody, and it is entirely natural that their blame should fall upon the mayor and the supervisors.

This very financial stringency in city funds makes all the more necessary some bold stroke that will allow city improvements to proceed. The officials who have studied the situation see nothing for it but a bond issue. Nor is there anything financially unsound in the issuance of bonds for municipal improvements such as permanent road construction in the country districts and such as the erection of a city hall. American municipalities everywhere find it wise to issue bonds for these and similar purposes, and very few indeed of the American cities as large or half as large as Honolulu have no bonded indebtedness. The mayor's figures yesterday indicate that the city has the right under the statutes to issue bonds up to \$2,250,000, and in any calendar year may issue up to \$450,000.

The bright business prospects of Honolulu furnish one potent argument for a bond issue. Assessed valuations are likely to increase. General business is expanding. The city is moving forward and will continue to move forward.

It needs no argument to prove the great advisability of building a city hall—a city hall worthy of Honolulu—and little or no argument to show that the belt road system cannot be finished out of the current revenues nor constructed under the frontage-tax system.

What the mayor and the supervisors must do in this publicity campaign that is proposed on behalf of the bond issue is to convince the voters and the taxpayers of these three things: First, that the present plight of the city treasury is due to circumstances beyond their control; secondly, that the bond issue is the best solution for the perplexing problems of the immediate future; thirdly, that the bond issue moneys will be spent with the maximum of efficiency and the minimum of politics.

THE ZEPPELIN DESTROYERS.

England's new ability to meet Zeppelin attacks was emphasized a few days ago when the world learned how one of the great German airships had fallen into the North Sea, disabled after an attack on the east counties, and how the captain had written letters to his family as the aircraft sank.

A writer in Popular Mechanics declares that of his own knowledge Great Britain has developed a new kind of flies for defense against the "Zeps." He says:

"Realizing the futility of endeavoring to develop during any probable duration of the war an adequate rigid-framed airship capable of meeting the Zeppelin on equal terms, the British bent their efforts—once order began to resolve out of the chaos of the first few months of the war—to the construction of a Zeppelin destroyer. As the Zeppelin itself—with its large crew, heavy engines, and huge fuel supply—must, to a certain extent, sacrifice speed and mobility to weight-carrying capacity, the way seemed open for the construction of a swift non-weight carrier which, while able to out-speed and out-maneuver the Zeppelin, would still be far more stable and generally safer than the aeroplane. This is the type the British have striven to perfect, and from what I have been able to gather in England, not

without considerable promise of success.

"No one has yet reported seeing one of the new machines in the immediate vicinity of London, but in November, 1915, the writer, on a short visit to a port near the mouth of the Thames, saw pass in the twilight a strange 'hybrid' which bore close resemblance to the descriptions that had been given him of the Zeppelin destroyer. From this glimpse I would describe it as either a heavily planed dirigible or a 'ballooned' aeroplane. Whether the gas envelope had a rigid frame or not I was unable to judge, and on this point there is a good deal of diverse opinion. It is agreed, however, that the destroyer has the speed of a very fast aeroplane, and, what is especially important in the work for which it is designed, can rise even more quickly than aeroplane or Zeppelin. The great points claimed for it are that, unlike the aeroplane, it can stay out all night and wait until daylight to pick a landing and, unlike the Zeppelin, can plane down to safety in case its gas bags are riddled. Being designed for defense, and having, therefore, no great fuel supply to reckon with, it is able to 'run' to guns and engines, in both of which it is very powerful. The crew I have heard estimated as running all the way from a half dozen to twenty, and it is, of course, by no means unlikely that the machine has been built in different types and sizes."

MORE ENLIGHTENMENT.

Chairman Lorin Andrews of the Republican territorial central committee insists he doesn't know who the delegates to the Chicago convention are going to be, and proceeds to prove it.

The real leaders of the Republican party know, because the slate was arranged on the day Delegate Kuhio got here from Washington and met Robert W. Breckons and H. L. Holstein. And so far there has been no opposition to the six men then picked out, nor has Chairman Andrews made any suggestion of a better six. The Star-Bulletin repeats that the names chosen last Tuesday and published by the Star-Bulletin on Wednesday are the names of the men who will go to Chicago, as the situation now rests. The slate is definite and it will not be changed unless one or another of the six does not wish to go to Chicago or there is an entirely unexpected change in the political line-up. That Chairman Andrews doesn't know the slate has been made makes not a particle of difference in the fact of the slate itself.

Perhaps peeved because his leadership in party affairs is not recognized, Chairman Andrews charges that the editor of the Star-Bulletin pretends to dictate to the Republican party. If he makes this charge in good faith, it is merely another instance of his ignorance as to what is really happening in G. O. P. circles. The real Republican leaders would smile and doubtless have smiled at Mr. Andrews' accusation; certainly the editor has smiled. To point out that the six delegates to Chicago have been picked is obviously not to dictate, but to publish the news, and Mr. Andrews, it strikes most Republicans, should be glad to read the news and thus become enlightened as to what is really happening in the inner councils of his party.

The Filipinos are learning by sad experience the danger of being fleeced by alleged "colonizers" who would lure them from Hawaii to the Pacific coast. Their wiser countrymen know that the best place for them is in Hawaii, where they are sure of employment at good wages, an equable climate and organized efforts to benefit their lot.

The city treasurer told the Rotary Club yesterday how much money the city has spent in 1915 and now it would be interesting to have the supervisors tell just how it all happened.

One can hardly blame a businessman for not being inclined to take a vacancy as supervisor just now.

Anytime they aren't killing ten or fifteen thousand a day on the west front, Paris refers to the situation as "calm."

Under District Attorney Vaughan's scrutiny, the war plot seems rapidly receding into the background.

It will be mighty good news for the criminals that there isn't any money to run the courts.

The only spring drive of this season was that of the Germans at Verdun.

CAME TO HAWAII DURING DAYS OF ROYAL REGIME

Mrs. Annie Wright, Native of England, Dies After Spending Many Years Here

Mrs. Annie Wright, who came to Honolulu from New Zealand in 1880, and lived here under a king, during a queen's rule, under a provisional government, then under the republic and last under the territorial government, died yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The deceased, who was born in Darlington, County of Durham, England, in 1846, was the wife of W. W. Wright, 921 South Birch street. She is survived by the widow and by the following children: John Thomas Wright of Oakland, Cal., and Mrs. E. A. Jacobsen, Miss Marion Wright, William Wright, George F. Wright and Stanley Wright, all of Honolulu. The funeral was announced as private, and was set for 3 o'clock this afternoon from the family residence, with Mrs. Edna K. Scott, first reader of the Christian Science church, officiating at the religious exercises.

NO BASIS FOR REPORT CONCERNING FENNEL. JEFFERSON EMPHASIZES

T. R. Jefferson, who was a witness on Wednesday at the United States commissioner's hearing in the case of W. R. Seligson, charged with complicity in the so-called "British recruiting plot," informs the Star-Bulletin that he did not say, as was quoted, that he had heard W. P. Fennell, liquor license inspector, was suspected of being in on the recruiting scheme.

"What I said was that Fennell told me he had heard Randall was suspected of hiring soldiers for the British army," said Jefferson. "I know nothing whatever about any suspicion of Fennell nor of any basis for the story."

BRIEF BITS ON MEN, PLANS AND EVENTS AT HONOLULU'S "Y"

The citizens' education committee met today at noon at the Pacific Club.

W. H. Dreier talked to the student assembly last evening at the Y. M. C. A.

D. C. Peters talked to the members of the Y. M. C. A. at noon today on the subject of "A Circular Letter."

Tryouts for the hexathlon will be held in the Games Hall this evening with a number of athletes entered.

Samuel W. Robley, extension secretary of the Y. M. C. A., was operated upon for appendicitis yesterday at Queen's Hospital.

Members have received the copy of the Newsletter, the monthly publication which contains reports of the many activities of the association.

Improvements are being made on the Y. M. C. A. tennis courts, located at Hotel and Richard streets. Many of the members have taken up the court game, and it is expected that a number of good players will be developed.

Members of the Get Ready Club of the intermediate department will study the lighting system of the city on March 7 at 7:30. The members of the club will make the principal streets of the city and will make a report on what they have seen. Members have been asked to report suggestions for improvements in the present system.

Personal Mention

BENJAMIN H. BROWN, SR., of Hilo is visiting in Honolulu for the first time in several years. He expects to return to the Big Island next Wednesday.

MISS IDA G. MacDONALD, a teacher at the Normal school, left for the coast in the Niagara last night on her way to Nova Scotia. Prior to her sailing she was entertained at the school by the members of the senior class.

Many small towns in Arkansas were flooded by the breaking of levees on the Arkansas river.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—SAM KALEIKINI: Seeing that the appropriation out of which my salary is paid is exhausted, I guess I'll have to take a vacation. I've been wanting to do a little fishing, anyway.

JOHN A. DOMINIS: From the way things look now, circuit court officials who want supplies will have to pay for them out of their own pockets, and I guess that includes ice and drinking cups.

—K. FUWA: The Japanese people are very fond of Shakespeare's works. Although much of the literature of Japan is translated from the Russian and French, Shakespeare leads all the English writers.

—A. KALEI AONA: We were planning on having a jury trial in Circuit Judge Whitney's court next week, but I guess it will have to be called off. I wonder what I am going to do for paper clips?

—LAI TIN: I know that the Honolulu fans will turn out for our farewell game before we leave for the mainland. We go everything in our power to boost Honolulu in our eight months' trip, and I feel that the fans appreciate it.

—WILLIAM DREIER: It is refreshing to note the interest taken in civil affairs by the boys' clubs. In our tours around the city studying different systems, I find that the boys take an active interest and suggest many plans for improvement of conditions.

—GLENN E. JACKSON: This has been a great year for athletics, and I believe that in every branch of sport Hawaii will improve during 1916. No athletic game should be scheduled purely for the money in it, but for the sport's sake. The increase in interest in track athletics is a move in the right direction.

—WADE WARREN THAYER: Michigan men will be glad to welcome a noted Ann Arbor man to Honolulu at the time of the Oahu College seventy-fifth anniversary. Stewart Edward White is one of the Michigan men who has made a name in the field of letters, and he may be the Ann Arbor representative at that time.

—CHARLES F. LOOMIS: I was very much impressed with my visit to Kaula, and I feel that the community Y. M. C. A. there will be a big success. The citizens have taken hold in the right manner, and there is an unusual interest in the establishment of an association. I am sure that I shall enjoy my new position as the Kaula people have proved to be the right kind of boosters.

FOUR COMPANIES OF GUARD WILL CAMP IN PUNCHBOWL CRATER

The 1st Battalion, under the command of Maj. Johnson, will start on an overnight camp on Punchbowl tomorrow afternoon, leaving the armory at 4:30 o'clock.

This will be the first long hike taken since the guard has been strengthened, and a large turnout is looked for at this time. The various companies will go through a great deal of extended order drill while out. The bed of Punchbowl has been cleared so that there will be ample room for the battalion to drill in.

The battalion will strike camp late Sunday afternoon. The trip both ways will be made by the trail which runs up from Alapai street. The companies which will make the hike are A, B, C and D.

GAS COMPANY TO HAVE FRANCHISE REPEALED?

Opposition to the amendment of its franchise so as to give the public utilities commission the power to compel it to extend its lines may result in the repeal of the Honolulu Gas Company's franchise by Congress, according to a cablegram received from George McK. McClellan by Delegate Kuhio yesterday.

The cablegram reads as follows: "The recent action of the public utilities commission inclines the commission to insist upon the amendment of the franchise of the gas and electric companies, to give the public utilities commission power to compel extensions."

"Hamlin (one of the members of the committee) threatens to introduce a bill repealing the franchise of the gas company, if that corporation refuses to give its consent to the amendment suggested by the commission."

BOLIVIA CITY SLIPPING

PANAMA, C. Z.—According to advices received here from La Paz, Bolivia, a section of the city about 1,600 yards long is sliding into the Choqueyapu river. The section comprises mostly residences of the poor, although there are in it the market, the barracks and the museum of the archaeologist Posnansky.

Gazing at Fire Engines Causes Man to Faint

Hot Tar Makes Much Excitement in Downtown Section This Morning; No Damage

Excitement abounded at King and Fort street this morning about 10 o'clock when overheated tar in a bucket burst into flames as it was being poured upon the roof of the Cunha Music Company's store, which was being given a fresh coat of tar.

Using sacks and gravel, the workmen smothered the flames, then threw the bucket and its tarry contents down from the roof to the back yard. The tar struck drygoods boxes and set them afire. Employees of Ehlers' store brought four fire extinguishers into play and put out the blaze a few seconds before the fire department arrived.

A. J. Oram, treasurer of the Office Supply Company, was stricken with an attack of faintness while watching apparatus gather at Fort and King, and was carried into the firm's store, where he recovered after being given first-aid treatment by Traffic Officer John Hills and D. A. Epstein of the Santa Fe ticket office.

WILD DUCKS DYING BY WHOLESALE IN KANSAS

TOPEKA, Kan.—From a million to a million and a half of wild ducks are dead and dying on the Cheyenne bottoms, near Holsington, Kan., according to A. C. Tregmeier, state fish and game warden. Tregmeier took three of the dead birds to Lawrence to have the chemists at the University of Kansas determine what caused their death.

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BIRTHS.

UYEDA—In Honolulu, February 22, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Kameljo Uyeda of 50 S. Vineyard street, a son.

DEATHS.

FERN—In Honolulu, March 2, 1916, Miss Alice Kuehl Fern, Cummins street.

PAVAO—In Honolulu, March 3, 1916, Francisco Pavao, Queen street, near Cooke.

POON—In Honolulu, March 3, 1916, infant son of Tom Poon and wife, Maunakea street.

(Additional vital statistics on page 12.)

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